In the Claims:

6. (Twice amended) A method for augmenting an immune response in a patient having a cancerous or neoplastic disease, comprising the steps of administering flt3-ligand in an amount sufficient to generate an increase in the number of the patient's dendritic cells and administering a tumor antigen to the patient.

20. (Twice amended) A method of treating cancerous or neoplastic disease in a patient in need thereof comprising administering flt3-ligand in an amount sufficient to enhance the patient's immune response to such disease and administering a tumor antigen to the patient.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the flt3-ligand is human flt3-ligand.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the flt3-ligand is soluble human flt3-ligand.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand is recombinant flt3-ligand.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand has an amino acid sequence that is encoded by a polynucleotide sequence that hybridizes under moderately stringent conditions to, and is at least 80% identical to, a nucleic acid that encodes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 28 to Xaa of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 28 to Yaa of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein Xaa is an amino acid from 163 to 231, and Yaa is an amino acid from 160 to 235.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 28 to Xaa of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 28 to Yaa of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein Xaa is an amino acid from 163 to 231, and Yaa is an amino acid from 160 to 235.

27. (Twice amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the flt3-ligand has the amino acid sequence of residues 28-163 of SEQ ID NO:2.

28. (Twice amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand has the amino acid sequence of residues 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:1.

29. (Twice amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the flt3-ligand has the amino acid sequence of residues 28-188 of SEQ ID NO:2.

30. (Twice amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand has the amino acid sequence of residues 28-182 of SEQ ID NO:1.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the flt3-ligand is human flt3-ligand.

32. (Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the flt3-ligand is soluble human flt3-ligand.

E3 cont.

33. (Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand is recombinant flt3-ligand.

34. (Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand has an amino acid sequence that is encoded by a polynucleotide sequence that hybridizes under moderately stringent conditions to, and is at least 80% identical to, a nucleic acid that encodes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 28 to Xaa of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 28 to Yaa of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein Xaa is an amino acid from 163 to 231, and Yaa is an amino acid from 160 to 235.

35. (Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 28 to Xaa of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 28 to Yaa of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein Xaa is an amino acid from 163 to 231, and Yaa is an amino acid from 160 to 235.

36. (Twice amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the flt3-ligand has the amino acid sequence of residues 28-163 of SEQ ID NO:2.

37. (Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand has the amino acid sequence of residues 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:1.

38. (Twice amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the flt3-ligand has the amino acid sequence of residues 28-188 of SEQ ID NO:2.

E3 cont.

39. (Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand has the amino acid sequence of residues 28-182 of SEQ ID NO:1.

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44. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the tumor antigen is in the form of a tumor cell bearing said tumor antigen.

45. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the tumor antigen is in the form of an isolated tumor antigen.

E4

46. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the antigen is administered prior to administering flt3-ligand.

47. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the antigen is administered concurrently with flt3-ligand.

48. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the antigen is administered after administering flt3-ligand.

49. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor antigen is in the form of a tumor cell bearing said tumor antigen.

50. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor antigen is in the form of an isolated tumor antigen.

51. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor antigen is administered prior to administering flt3-ligand.

52. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor antigen is administered concurrently with administering flt3-ligand .

53. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor antigen is administered after administering flt3-ligand .

54. (Amended) A method of treating cancerous or neoplastic disease in a patient in need thereof comprising administering flt3-ligand to the patient, isolating dendritic cells from the patient, exposing the dendritic cells to a tumor antigen, and administering the dendritic cells to the patient.

E4 cont.

55. (Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein the tumor antigen is in the form of a tumor cell bearing said antigen.

56. (Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein the tumor antigen is in the form of an isolated tumor antigen.

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. Independent claims 6, 20 and 54 have been amended to specify that the antigen being administered is a *tumor* antigen, and therefore, no longer encompass "any molecule" that may induce an immune response. Claims 44, 49 and 55 have been amended to specify that the *tumor* antigen is in the form of a *tumor cell bearing said antigen*, and claims 45, 50 and 56 have been amended to specify that the *tumor* antigen is in the form of *an isolated tumor antigen*; also, claims 46-47 and 51-53 have been amended to specify that a *tumor* antigen is being administered. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, at page 7, lines 23-31 and pages 10, lines 15-21 in the specification as originally filed and therefore do not constitute new matter.

All relevant claims have been amended to uniformly refer to "flt3-ligand." Support may be found at page 4, line 34. Claims 22 and 31 have been amended to specify that the flt3-ligand is human flt3-ligand. Support may be found, for example, at page 4, lines 34-37. Following the amendments, claims 6, 7, 20 and 22-56 are pending in the application with claims 6, 20 and 54 being in independent format.

35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 6, 7, 20 and 22-56 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a